United Nations A/RES/68/240

General Assembly

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Sixty-eighth session
Agenda item 69 (*a*)

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 27 December 2013

[*on the report of the Third Committee (A/68/456/Add.1)*]

68/240. Human Rights Committee

The General Assembly,

Recalling the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Optional Protocols thereto,[1]

Welcoming the work of the Human Rights Committee, and encouraging sustained efforts by the Committee to improve the efficiency of its working methods,

Regretting the persistent backlog of communications under the first Optional Protocol to the Covenant[2] awaiting consideration, which prevents the Committee from considering communications in a timely manner and without undue delay,

Recalling its resolutions 66/254 of 23 February 2012, 66/295 of 17 September 2012 and 68/2 of 20 September 2013 on the intergovernmental process of the General Assembly on strengthening and enhancing the effective functioning of the human rights treaty body system, and recognizing in this regard that a long-term solution to the problem of the increasing backlog of communications awaiting review by the Committee may be found in this context,

Noting the request of the Committee that the General Assembly authorize an extension of its meeting time by one week in 2014 and one week in 2015,

Noting also that documentation costs constitute the largest part of the budget for the Committee,

1. *Expresses its appreciation* for the efforts made so far by the Human Rights Committee to improve the efficiency of its working methods, including with a view to further harmonizing the working methods of the treaty bodies, and urges the Committee to continue its activities in this regard;

[1] See resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex; and United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1642, No. 14688.
[2] See resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

13-45385 (E)

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2. *Authorizes*, without prejudice to the intergovernmental process of the General Assembly on strengthening and enhancing the effective functioning of the human rights treaty body system, the addition of one week of meeting time for the Committee in 2014, including an adequate level of Secretariat resources, as a temporary measure, in order to address the backlog of communications under the first Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights[2] awaiting consideration.

72nd plenary meeting
27 December 2013

United Nations A/RES/68/241

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[*on the report of the Third Committee (A/68/456/Add.2)*]

68/241. United Nations Human Rights Training and Documentation Centre for South-West Asia and the Arab Region

The General Assembly,

Guided by the fundamental and universal principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[1]

Recalling the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action of 1993,[2] which reiterated the need to consider the possibility of establishing regional and subregional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights where they do not already exist,

Recalling also its resolutions 32/127 of 16 December 1977 and 51/102 of 12 December 1996 and all its subsequent resolutions concerning regional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights,

Recalling further its resolutions 60/153 of 16 December 2005 and 67/162 of 20 December 2012 on the United Nations Human Rights Training and Documentation Centre for South-West Asia and the Arab Region,

Recalling Commission on Human Rights resolution 1993/51 of 9 March 1993[3] and all its subsequent resolutions concerning regional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights,

Reaffirming that regional cooperation plays a fundamental role in promoting and protecting human rights and should reinforce universal human rights, as contained in international human rights instruments, and their protection,

Noting that the developments in the Middle East and North Africa have generated growing demand for the services of the Centre, and recognizing that the

[1] Resolution 217 A (III).

[2] A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III.

[3] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1993, Supplement No. 3* and corrigenda (E/1993/23 and Corr.2, 4 and 5), chap. II, sect. A.

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report of the Secretary-General[4] indicates that the Centre will be unable to effectively meet these demands and fully discharge its mandate without the allocation of appropriate funding and adequate resources,

Mindful of the vastness and the diversity of the needs in the field of human rights within South-West Asia and the Arab region, and taking into account the need for more appropriate and sustainable funding of the Centre to fully realize its significant function and crucial role in the region,

1. *Welcomes* the report of the Secretary-General;[4]

2. *Notes with appreciation* the successful assistance that the Centre has provided through human rights capacity-building activities, technical assistance programmes, training activities and regional consultations on the topics of United Nations human rights mechanisms, human trafficking, the media and human rights education;

3. *Underlines* the Centre's role as a source for regional expertise and the need to meet an increasing number of requests for training and documentation, including in the Arabic language, which require additional resources and the reinforcement of its activities;

4. *Notes* that the current levels of human and financial resources are limiting the Centre's capacity to respond in a timely and sustainable manner to the increasing requests to provide continuous follow-up support to the countries of the region and to appropriately respond to their needs;

5. *Encourages* the continued engagement of the Centre to work with other United Nations regional offices to strengthen its work and to avoid duplication;

6. *Reaffirms* the request contained in paragraph 5 of its resolution 67/162, and endorses the proposal of the Secretary-General to strengthen the Centre, as proposed in his report, with the costs to be borne by the regular budget and extrabudgetary resources, as recommended by the Secretary-General, in order to ensure the full implementation of the mandate of the Centre;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth session a report, in accordance with existing rules and procedures, on the implementation of the present resolution.

72nd plenary meeting
27 December 2013

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[4] A/68/287.

United Nations A/RES/68/242

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Agenda item 69 (*c*)

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 27 December 2013

[*on the report of the Third Committee (A/68/456/Add.3)*]

68/242. Situation of human rights in Myanmar

The General Assembly,

Guided by the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[1] the International Covenants on Human Rights[2] and other relevant human rights instruments, and recalling its previous resolutions on the situation of human rights in Myanmar, the most recent of which is resolution 67/233 of 24 December 2012, those of the Commission on Human Rights, and those of the Human Rights Council, the most recent of which is resolution 22/14 of 21 March 2013,[3]

Welcoming the report of the Secretary-General on the situation of human rights in Myanmar[4] and the facilitation by the Government of Myanmar of the visits of his Special Adviser to the country from 13 to 16 January, 3 to 6 February, 21 to 25 March, 25 August to 2 September and 7 to 10 October 2013,

Welcoming also the report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar[5] and the access granted to him during his visits to Myanmar from 11 to 16 February and 11 to 21 August 2013,

1. *Welcomes* the positive developments in Myanmar and the stated commitment of the Government of Myanmar to continue on the path of political and economic reform, democratization and national reconciliation and the promotion and protection of human rights, recognizing the scale of the reform effort undertaken to date;

2. *Also welcomes* the continued engagement of the Government of Myanmar with political actors within the parliament, civil society and opposition

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[1] Resolution 217 A (III).

[2] Resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

[3] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 53* (A/68/53), chap. IV, sect. A.

[4] A/68/331.

[5] A/68/397.

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parties, and urges the Government to continue constitutional and electoral reform in order to ensure that the elections to be held in 2015 are genuinely credible, inclusive and transparent;

3. *Further welcomes* the increasing space for political activity, assembly, speech and the press, and encourages the Government of Myanmar to fulfil its commitment to carry out comprehensive media reform and to protect the right to freedom of expression, association and of peaceful assembly, including to allow for free and independent media and to ensure the safety, security and freedom of human rights defenders to pursue their activities;

4. *Welcomes* the statement by the President of Myanmar that no prisoners of conscience will remain in prison by the end of 2013, the continued release of prisoners of conscience during the past year and the work of the political prisoner review committee, and urges the Government of Myanmar to continue the process and to fulfil its commitment to release them by the end of 2013, without conditions, and to ensure the full restoration of their rights and freedoms;

5. *Expresses concern* about remaining human rights violations, including arbitrary arrests and detentions of political activists and human rights defenders, forced displacement, land confiscations, rape and other forms of sexual violence and torture and cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment, as well as violations of international humanitarian law, and urges the Government of Myanmar to step up its efforts to put an end to such violations;

6. *Welcomes* ongoing efforts aimed at reviewing and reforming legislation, including the Constitution, recalls the importance of ensuring its compatibility with international standards and democratic principles, in this regard acknowledges with interest the draft legislation on the National Human Rights Commission intended to bring its functioning into line with the Paris Principles,[6] and calls upon the Government of Myanmar to continue legal reform, including by repealing laws restricting fundamental freedoms, and to consider ratifying additional international instruments, including international human rights conventions;

7. *Encourages* the Government of Myanmar to take further steps to strengthen the rule of law, including through legislative and institutional reform, and to address the need for an independent, impartial and effective judiciary, and repeats its call upon the Government to take necessary measures to ensure accountability and end impunity, including by undertaking a full, transparent and independent investigation into all reports of violations of international human rights and humanitarian law;

8. *Welcomes* the signing of ceasefire agreements between the Government of Myanmar and ethnic armed groups, and the recent signing of a seven-point agreement with regard to Kachin State and urges full implementation of it and of ceasefire agreements between other groups and the Government, including for all parties to protect the civilian population against ongoing violations of human rights and international humanitarian law and for safe, timely, full and unhindered humanitarian access to be granted to all areas, also welcomes the commitment by the Government to reach a nationwide ceasefire with ethnic armed groups, and encourages an all-inclusive political dialogue with the objective of achieving lasting peace;

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[6] Principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (resolution 48/134, annex).

9. *Urges* the Government of Myanmar to accelerate its efforts to address discrimination, human rights violations, violence, displacement and economic deprivation affecting various ethnic and religious minorities;

10. *Reiterates its serious concern* about the situation of the Rohingya minority in Rakhine State, including repeated instances of communal violence and other abuses in the past year, and about attacks against Muslim minorities elsewhere in the country, calls upon the Government of Myanmar to protect the civilian population from ongoing violence, to ensure full respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, including full access to humanitarian assistance without discrimination, unhindered access across Rakhine State and the voluntary return of internally displaced persons and refugees to their communities of origin, to allow freedom of movement, equal access to full citizenship for the Rohingya minority and to address issues of land ownership and restitution of property, and, while welcoming some measures taken by the Government in this regard, encourages the Government to facilitate intercommunity dialogue and address the root causes of the issue, to undertake full, transparent and independent investigations into all reports of human rights violations and to ensure accountability and bring about reconciliation;

11. *Welcomes* steps taken by the Government of Myanmar towards further engagement with a number of regional and other actors, and in this regard welcomes the visit of the Secretary-General of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation and a group of ministers in November 2013;

12. *Calls upon* the Government of Myanmar to step up its efforts to promote tolerance and peaceful coexistence in all sectors of society by, inter alia, encouraging interfaith dialogue and understanding and supporting community leaders in this direction;

13. *Welcomes* the steps taken by the Government of Myanmar to improve engagement and cooperation with the United Nations and other international actors, including the International Committee of the Red Cross, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict and the International Labour Organization, and the progress made towards ending the recruitment and use of child soldiers in Myanmar and towards the elimination of forced labour, and encourages the full implementation of relevant agreements, including of the action plan to end and prevent the recruitment and use of children by the armed forces and the commitment to end forced labour by 2015;

14. While noting ongoing negotiations, *expresses concern* at delays, and calls upon the Government of Myanmar to speed up the process of establishing a country office of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, in accordance with the mandate of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights;

15. *Encourages* the international community to continue to support the Government of Myanmar in the fulfilment of its international human rights obligations and commitments, the implementation of its democratic transitional process and its economic and social development;

16. *Requests* the Secretary-General:

(*a*) To continue to provide his good offices and to pursue his discussions on the situation of human rights, the transition to democracy and the national reconciliation process with the Government and the people of Myanmar, involving

all relevant stakeholders, including democracy and human rights groups, and to offer technical assistance to the Government in this regard;

(*b*) To give all assistance necessary to enable the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Myanmar and the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar to discharge their mandates fully, effectively and in a coordinated manner;

(*c*) To report to the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth session, as well as to the Human Rights Council, on the progress made in the implementation of the present resolution;

17. *Decides* to remain seized of the matter on the basis of the reports of the Secretary-General and the Special Rapporteur.

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27 December 2013

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Agenda item 94

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 27 December 2013

[*on the report of the First Committee (A/68/406)*]

68/243. Developments in the field of information and telecommunications in the context of international security

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 53/70 of 4 December 1998, 54/49 of 1 December 1999, 55/28 of 20 November 2000, 56/19 of 29 November 2001, 57/53 of 22 November 2002, 58/32 of 8 December 2003, 59/61 of 3 December 2004, 60/45 of 8 December 2005, 61/54 of 6 December 2006, 62/17 of 5 December 2007, 63/37 of 2 December 2008, 64/25 of 2 December 2009, 65/41 of 8 December 2010, 66/24 of 2 December 2011 and 67/27 of 3 December 2012,

Recalling also its resolutions on the role of science and technology in the context of international security, in which, inter alia, it recognized that scientific and technological developments could have both civilian and military applications and that progress in science and technology for civilian applications needed to be maintained and encouraged,

Noting that considerable progress has been achieved in developing and applying the latest information technologies and means of telecommunication,

Affirming that it sees in this process the broadest positive opportunities for the further development of civilization, the expansion of opportunities for cooperation for the common good of all States, the enhancement of the creative potential of humankind and additional improvements in the circulation of information in the global community,

Recalling, in this connection, the approaches and principles outlined at the Information Society and Development Conference, held in Midrand, South Africa, from 13 to 15 May 1996,

Bearing in mind the results of the Ministerial Conference on Terrorism, held in Paris on 30 July 1996, and the recommendations that were made,[1]

[1] See A/51/261, annex.

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Bearing in mind also the results of the World Summit on the Information Society, held in Geneva from 10 to 12 December 2003 (first phase) and in Tunis from 16 to 18 November 2005 (second phase),[2]

Noting that the dissemination and use of information technologies and means affect the interests of the entire international community and that optimum effectiveness is enhanced by broad international cooperation,

Expressing concern that these technologies and means can potentially be used for purposes that are inconsistent with the objectives of maintaining international stability and security and may adversely affect the integrity of the infrastructure of States to the detriment of their security in both civil and military fields,

Considering that it is necessary to prevent the use of information resources or technologies for criminal or terrorist purposes,

Noting the importance of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms in the use of information and communications technologies,

Noting also the contribution of those Member States that have submitted their assessments on issues of information security to the Secretary-General pursuant to paragraphs 1 to 3 of resolutions 53/70, 54/49, 55/28, 56/19, 57/53, 58/32, 59/61, 60/45, 61/54, 62/17, 63/37, 64/25, 65/41, 66/24 and 67/27,

Taking note of the reports of the Secretary-General containing those assessments,[3]

Welcoming the initiative taken by the Secretariat and the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research in convening international meetings of experts in Geneva in August 1999 and April 2008 on developments in the field of information and telecommunications in the context of international security, as well as the results of those meetings,

Considering that the assessments of Member States contained in the reports of the Secretary-General and the international meetings of experts have contributed to a better understanding of the substance of issues of international information security and related notions,

Bearing in mind that the Secretary-General, in fulfilment of resolution 66/24, established in 2012, on the basis of equitable geographical distribution, a group of governmental experts, which, in accordance with its mandate, considered existing and potential threats in the sphere of information security and possible cooperative measures to address them, including norms, rules or principles of responsible behaviour of States and confidence-building measures in information space, and conducted a study on relevant international concepts aimed at strengthening the security of global information and telecommunications systems,

Welcoming the effective work of the Group of Governmental Experts on Developments in the Field of Information and Telecommunications in the Context of International Security and the relevant outcome report transmitted by the Secretary-General,[4]

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[2] See A/C.2/59/3 and A/60/687.

[3] A/54/213, A/55/140 and Corr.1 and Add.1, A/56/164 and Add.1, A/57/166 and Add.1, A/58/373, A/59/116 and Add.1, A/60/95 and Add.1, A/61/161 and Add.1, A/62/98 and Add.1, A/64/129 and Add.1, A/65/154, A/66/152 and Add.1, A/67/167 and A/68/156 and Add.1.

[4] A/68/98.

Taking note of the assessments and recommendations contained in the report of the Group of Governmental Experts,

1. *Calls upon* Member States to promote further at multilateral levels the consideration of existing and potential threats in the field of information security, as well as possible strategies to address the threats emerging in this field, consistent with the need to preserve the free flow of information;

2. *Considers* that the purpose of such strategies could be served through further examination of relevant international concepts aimed at strengthening the security of global information and telecommunications systems;

3. *Invites* all Member States, taking into account the assessments and recommendations contained in the report of the Group of Governmental Experts on Developments in the Field of Information and Telecommunications in the Context of International Security,[4] to continue to inform the Secretary-General of their views and assessments on the following questions:

(*a*) General appreciation of the issues of information security;

(*b*) Efforts taken at the national level to strengthen information security and to promote international cooperation in this field;

(*c*) The content of the concepts mentioned in paragraph 2 above;

(*d*) Possible measures that could be taken by the international community to strengthen information security at the global level;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General, with the assistance of a group of governmental experts, to be established in 2014 on the basis of equitable geographical distribution, taking into account the assessments and recommendations contained in the above-mentioned report, to continue to study, with a view to promoting common understandings, existing and potential threats in the sphere of information security and possible cooperative measures to address them, including norms, rules or principles of responsible behaviour of States and confidence-building measures, the issues of the use of information and communications technologies in conflicts and how international law applies to the use of information and communications technologies by States, as well as the concepts referred to in paragraph 2 above, and to submit to the General Assembly at its seventieth session a report on the results of the study;

5. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-ninth session the item entitled "Developments in the field of information and telecommunications in the context of international security".

72nd plenary meeting
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Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 27 December 2013

[*on the report of the Fifth Committee (A/68/688)*]

68/244. Managing after-service health insurance liabilities

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 58/249 A of 23 December 2003, section III of its resolution 60/255 of 8 May 2006, its resolutions 61/264 of 4 April 2007 and 64/241 and 64/245 of 24 December 2009, and section IV of its resolution 65/259 of 24 December 2010,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General[1] and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[2]

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[1]

2. *Endorses* the observations and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[2] subject to the provisions of the present resolution;

3. *Recalls* paragraph 13 of the report of the Advisory Committee, and requests the Secretary-General to examine the option of broadening the mandate of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund, based on input from the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Board, to include the cost-effective, efficient and sustainable administration of after-service health insurance benefits, taking into account the advantages and disadvantages of this option, including its financial and legal implications, without prejudice to the outcome of the examination, and to report thereon at the seventieth session of the General Assembly;

4. *Underlines* that the request made in paragraph 3 above does not prevent the Secretary-General from considering other options;

[1] A/68/353.
[2] A/68/550.

13-45409

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5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to undertake a survey of current health-care plans for active and retired staff within the United Nations system, to explore all options to increase efficiency and contain costs and to report thereon at its seventieth session.

72nd plenary meeting
27 December 2013